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Glossary / Appendix

English 20-2



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English 20-2

Glossary & Appendix

Glossary of Literary Terms

Act

a major division of a play (Shakespearean drama is normally of five acts; modern is usually three or less.)

Allegory

fictional prose or poetry in which a strong thesis is developed by characters representing abstract qualities (extended metaphor)

Alliteration

repetition of initial sounds in two or more words of a phrase, sentence, or line of poetry (see assonance, consonance)

Slowly, silently now the moon walks the night in her silver shoon

Allusion

reference to a historical, literary, or mythical person or event, often used as part of a simile or metaphor

I'd rather be a pagan suckled in a creed outworn/ and hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn...

Ambiguity

having two or more meanings, which produce confusion or invite new thoughts

Anecdote

a brief story often used to make or illustrate a point

Antagonist

the character in a work of fiction opposed to the protagonist; those forces or circumstances opposed to the protagonist (antagonistic forces)

Antecedent

that which 'goes before'; the noun to which a pronoun refers

Anthology

a collection of literature (usually in a book, but may be CD)

Apostrophe

in literature, directly addressing an object, animal, or absent person

Apprenticeship

a program of 'learning on the job' coupled with yearly technical training, usually 3 or 4 years

Atmosphere

the tone of a literary composition or mood (feeling) created by the author, indicating the attitude of the writer towards his material

Audience

in literature, the person(s) to whom the person speaks or to whom the author directs the work

Autobiography

a story of a person's life written or told by himself (herself)

Ballad

short, narrative poem with repetitive form (Folk ballad is usually anonymous, sung, colloquial, heavily dependent on dialogue and repetition. Literary ballad is more complex to present a particular effect or theme.)

Bias

a tendency to view things from only one point of view.

Biography

a story of a person's life written or told by another

Blocking

director's control of position or movement of actors on stage

Calendar

information guide to requirements, schedules, programs, and courses of a college

Camera angle

the direction or position from which a picture is taken

Caption

words that accompany photograph, picture, or cartoon

Character foils

[see foils]

Character Sketch

a short explanation of a few traits supported by details

Chronological Résumé

lists past work experience in order from most recent to least recent

Cite

make a direct quotation or direct reference

Cliché

trite, worn-out phrase or idea to which fresh, active responses are seldom possible

Climax

the high point, most exciting point, and/or turning point of a story

Clincher Sentence

sentence concluding a paragraph and emphasizing the idea of the paragraph

Clustering

a prewriting strategy in which details relating to a concept are placed around it; also called mind mapping or webbing

Collage

a composition of images, often clippings glued to a paper, typically to illustrate a theme or concept

Comedy

a play in which the character accomplishes his goals

Comic relief

a humorous scene designed to ease tension temporarily in a serious play

Complication

the incident (or series of incidents) that leads from the initial incident to the climax; also rising action

Conflict

in fiction, the struggle between opposing persons or forces that constitutes the essential element of plot

Connotation

suggestions, associations, or overtones beyond literal meaning, especially of words or phrases

Context

any aspect of a communication situation influencing interpretation or creation of text

Couplet

a unit of two lines of poetry, usually rhymed

Crop

trim edges of a photograph to create a deliberate effect

Deductive

a form of thinking or presentation that begins with a generalization that is then supported by individual observations

Denotation

the literal (dictionary) meaning of a word

Dénouement

the conclusion of the plot; the outcome of the action together with any explanations necessary

Dialogue

conversation among characters in story or play

Dialogue tag

words that identify the speaker and tone of a direct quote" example – "I'm shocked!" she exclaimed.

Diction

the choice of words and the manner of their arrangement peculiar to an author

Dilemma

a situation offering a choice between two alternatives, often equally undesirable

Dramatic irony

a difference between what the audience knows to be true and what the character perceives to be true

Dramatic monologue

a poem in which a single speaker addresses an obvious silent listener intending to achieve a particular purpose and in the process reveals his own character and motives

Dynamic character

a character who changes or develops during a story, play, or novel

Editing

the process of identifying and modifying structural errors in writing, such as punctuation, grammar, and spelling

Exposition

usually the beginning portion of the story introducing the characters, setting the tone, and providing necessary details to understand the following action

Fable

a short allegorical story that teaches a lesson, often with talking animals as characters

Fact

a statement that can be proven to be true. E.g., "A rose is a fragrant flower." This statement can be verified by testing the fragrance of the rose with your nose

Figurative language

language that conveys meaning by explicit or implicit comparisons

First-person point of view

narration in which a character tells his or her own story; sometimes called narrator-participant point of view

Flat character

a character with one dominant trait that governs his actions; relatively simple in comparison to round characters

Foils

characters contrasting strongly in similar circumstances; character foils

Foreshadowing

an indication of events to come, intended to prepare audience for later events or conclusion

Free verse

poetry not using rhyme or regularized rhythm

Functional Résumé

lists abilities and skills without emphasizing jobs

Genre

a type of category, especially of literature (such as drama, essay, poetry, fables, novel, short story)

High-angle shot

a camera shot in which the camera is placed above the subject

Hyperbole

exaggeration for emphasis of serious or humorous effect

Idea

in literature, a thought or attitude about a concept, usually expressed in a sentence

Image

strong sensory pictures formed in reader's mind by words

Imagery

any figure of speech or description that helps the reader imaginatively see, feel, taste, hear, smell, or experience

Inductive

a form of thinking or presentation that begins with individual observations and leads to a conclusion

Interpretive fiction

stories intended to provide complex views of human nature or society

Irony

a difference between what exists and what was expected

- (a) verbal irony – a difference of the apparent and the real meanings of a statement
- (b) situational (structural) irony - sharp contrast of events or situations
- (b) dramatic irony - a situation in which the audience understands the significance of words or actions more fully than the characters perceive

Jargon

the language of a particular group or profession

Layout

the way visual elements (art, copy, symbols, logos) are placed on a page

Letter-to-the-Editor

a letter intended for publication, usually written in response to some news item or issue

Line

in visual communication, the deliberate use of specific qualities of lines, curves or angles to achieve a desired effect

Low-angle shot

a camera shot in which the camera is placed low in relation to the subject

Mass media

the various means of mass communication like radio, television, movies, the Internet, newspapers, and magazines.

Maxim

a saying or precept, often a cliché; a rule of conduct

Memoir

an autobiographical piece of writing, focusing upon specific events or times rather than total lifetime

Metacognition

consideration of thinking and learning process

Metaphor

an implied comparison of some quality of two diverse objects, thoughts, actions

Monologue

a long speech by one character generally expressing emotions

Mood

the dominating impression or feeling produced in the reader or viewer

Motif

a pattern or symbol that develops throughout the story, often dominating theme

Motivation

the purpose that dominates a character in fiction and gives rise to his actions

Motivators

aspects that prompt to action; interests

Multimedia

a combination of media. Examples: movie posters, TV weather forecasts classroomlectures or reports using slides, overhead projections, and charts.

Mythology

a set of fictional stories, traditions, or beliefs created by a particular group to explain life's mysteries.

News Agency

an organization that gathers news stories from around the world and sells them to local publishers

Number

aspect of nouns and pronouns showing one or many

Objective point of view

involves the writer simply recording events and dialogue as if he were the news camera

Omniscient point of view

the point of view in fiction in which the author is inside the mind of any of his characters at will; existing everywhere

Onomatopoeia

the use of words whose sounds duplicate those of the action or object described (*crash, bang, boom*)

Opinion

a statement that expresses a point of view or belief that cannot be proved. E.g., “The rose is the most beautiful flower.” This cannot be proven because it is one person’s belief and others may disagree and believe that other flowers such as orchids are more beautiful

Oxymoron

the combination of two sharply contrasting descriptive terms into a single meaningful phrase (“visible darkness”; “sweet sorrow”)

Paradox

linking of apparently contradictory terms in a single statement that has truth

Parody

a humorous imitation of another style; a spoof

Persona

an artificial and often nameless character (speaker) created by a poet; any artificial character presenting an author’s ideas publicly

Personal Essay

an essay characterized by personal experience, informal language, and often journalistic style

Personification

a figure of speech giving human characteristics to animals, concepts, or things

Plagiarism

the use of another’s work as if it were one’s own; theft of literary property

Photo Essay

a combination of visual and written communication used to develop a thesis

Plot

a plan of action in narrative and drama containing a conflict and its resolution; the events of the story

Point of view

the perspective from which the story is told, usually narrator participant, limited omniscient, or omniscient

Preamble

introductory statement providing significant background

Prejudice

hasty judgement based on assumptions

Profile

an outline or description of a few interesting aspects of someone’s life

Prologue

introduction to literary or musical work

Proposal

a report outlining a problem and offering a solution

Props

all objects used on the stage

Protagonist

the central character trying to overcome obstacles to reach a goal

Pun

a play upon meanings or similar sounds of words or expressions

References

names of people with whom the prospective employer may check the applicant’s skills, abilities, and character

Resolution

the diffusing of a story's tensions and problems after the climax; the falling action

Retrospective point of view

a writer's position of looking back of earlier events or situations from some identifiable present situation; for example, a story of someone returning to place of childhood and recalling events

Rhetorical Question

a question with obvious yes or no answer, asked for effect and not actual response

Rhyme

similar or identical sounds in two or more words, usually the last words of poetic lines (masculine rhyme—final, accented syllables, “girl / swirl”; feminine rhyme—last two syllables, accented then unaccented, “student” / “prudent”)

Rhyme scheme

order or pattern of rhymes in a poem, usually lettered as *abba*, for example

Rhythm

in poetry, the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables; in prose, the usual rise and fall of the voice suggested by natural pauses and punctuation

Rising action

the complication of action between the initial incident and the climax in a story

Round character

a complex character whose actions are often changed by circumstances; usually capable of development

Rubric

a set of descriptors of expectations, often accompanied by evaluation categories and scores

Satire

a type of writing that uses humour and irony to point out the shortcomings of an organization, person, or society

Script

in drama, the written characters' speeches, stage directions, and scene information

Setting

the physical background to a story; environment of the characters

Simile

a direct comparison among objects, people, or ideas, usually using “like” or “as”

Slant

the point of view presented in a news story

Soliloquy

a speech by a character alone on stage revealing his/her thoughts

Sound effects

the artificial sounds added to a broadcast to simulate the sounds of actions and events

Stanza

two or more lines of poetry unified by meter, rhyme, thought, or all of these

Static character

character who remains largely unchanged throughout a story

Stock character

stereotypical character, found repeatedly in literature; usually static and flat

Storyboard

a series of drawings accompanied by brief descriptions of filming directions (camera shots and angles, music, sound effects, lighting)

Subject

a person, place, thing, or event

Suspense

uncertainty resulting from conflict; the desire to know the outcome of actions for characters who have aroused our interest

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Style | an author's manner of writing, usually marked by choice of words and distinct patterns of expression; contributes significantly to tone |
| Symbol | an object used to refer to an idea; a word, phrase, object, or action that has significance beyond that suggested by the context |
| Teleplay | a drama written for television |
| Text | any work of literature—print, film, visual, oral, multimedia |
| Textbox | on a page or screen, a box including a brief explanation, such as definitions or tips |
| Theme | the unifying idea underlying a literary work, especially fiction and poetry, expressed in a thematic statement; sometimes used to mean a general idea or category |
| Thesis | a writer's stated idea; the main point of an essay or non-fiction; also called contention or controlling purpose |
| Third-Person Point of View | a viewpoint keeping the reader at a distance from the action. The author controls the reader's interpretation by telling him only what he needs to know to come to a specific conclusion. "Third person" refers to the use of "he/she/it" pronouns for the singular or "they/them" for the plural. |
| Tone | the attitude of the author toward his subject, indicated by the diction, rhythm, and other matters of style and structure |
| Topic sentence | a sentence that deliberately states the main idea of a paragraph |
| Tragedy | a play in which the main character does not achieve his desired goals |
| Transition | the connection of one part of a text or arguments to another |
| Turning point | especially in Shakespearean tragedy, a point often of high tension when the audience realizes the protagonist cannot succeed |
| Tutorial | an activity with a set of instructions that is meant to teach a skill or improve your skills |
| Values | qualities considered important by an individual |
| Venn Diagram | interlocking circles used to show a combination of unique and shared items or traits |
| Verbal irony | irony in which the intended meaning of statements is different than the stated meaning |
| Voice | in writing, the personal and recognizable style of a writer |

Words Describing Skills

— useful in writing résumés and cover letters

Describe your activities and accomplishments accurately and appropriately. Include *what?* and for *whom?* with each of the verbs you use: arranged *what* for *whom*

Transferable Skills:

Communication Skills

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| advised | persuaded | summarized |
| communicated | promoted | talked |
| interpreted | presented | translated |
| negotiated | read | wrote |

Creative Skills

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| arranged | developed | originated |
| cooked | devised | performed |
| created | generated | produced |
| demonstrated | improvised | predicted |
| designed | invented | |

Information and Number Skills

| | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| analyzed | inspected | researched |
| budgeted | investigated | reviewed |
| calculated | memorized | scheduled |
| checked | ordered | selected |
| evaluated | organized | verified |

Leadership Skills

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| administered | directed | motivated |
| conducted | facilitated | planned |
| controlled | initiated (started) | supervised |
| coordinated | led | |
| decided | managed | |

Manual and Mechanical Skills

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| adjusted | installed | repaired |
| constructed | operated | serviced |

People-Skills

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|---------|
| assisted (helped) | counselled | served |
| consulted | enforced | trained |
| cooperated | instructed | |

Results Achieved

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| adapted | opened | streamlined |
| attained | proposed | strengthened |
| completed | provided (furnished) | structured |
| contributed | realized | submitted |
| decreased (lowered) | recommended | succeeded |
| doubled (tripled...) | reduced (cut) | supported |
| eliminated | revamped | transferred |
| established | revised | uncovered |
| expanded | revitalized | unified |
| implemented | risked | upgraded |
| improved | saved | utilized |
| increased (raised) | simplified | widened |
| introduced | sold | won |
| maintained | solved | |
| multiplied | stimulated | |

Personal Skills:

Aim to describe situations in which you have already shown your skills. Use “action words” to describe your skills and abilities.

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| accurate | conservative | frank |
| adaptable | considerate | friendly |
| adventurous | consistent | generous |
| alert | constructive | hard-working |
| ambitious | cool-headed | healthy |
| amiable | cooperative | helpful |
| analytical | courageous | honest |
| articulate | courteous | humorous |
| assertive | creative | imaginative |
| attentive | curious | independent |
| broad-minded | daring | industrious |
| businesslike | decisive | informal |
| calm | dedicated | innovative |
| capable | dependable | introspective |
| careful | determined | kind |
| cautious | disciplined | knowledgeable |
| charitable | discreet | light-hearted |
| charming | easy-going | logical |
| cheerful | efficient | loving |
| clever | energetic | loyal |
| compassionate | enterprising | mature |
| competent | enthusiastic | meticulous |
| competitive | flexible | modest |
| confident | forceful | motivated |
| conscientious | formal | objective |

obliging
open-minded
optimistic
original
organized
outgoing
patient
people-oriented
perceptive
persevering
persistent
pleasant
positive
practical
productive

prudent
progressive
prudent
punctual
quick
quick-witted
quiet
realistic
reliable
resourceful
responsible
self-confident
self-reliant
sensitive
sincere

sociable
sophisticated
spontaneous
stable
steady
supportive
systematic
tactful
talented
thorough
thoughtful
tolerant
trustworthy
versatile

Identify Your Skills:

Create some **interests/values/skills** charts to add to your Career Portfolio.

| Accomplishments | Interests | Values | Skills |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Made curtains | I enjoyed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> choosing fabric arranging colour scheme visualizing different designs designing a valance | I am proud of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> my good craftsmanship creating pleasant environment creating professional appearance for minimal cost | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visualizing designing choosing complementary colours accurate measuring sewing following instructions pride in performance efficiency tenacity |
| Built garage | I enjoyed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning and drafting estimating materials and costs creating a useful and attractive building | I am proud of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> my excellent craftsmanship creating an attractive building with minimal professional help | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> using power and hand tools planning, designing, drafting laying concrete foundation framing, sheathing, roofing installing siding and trim installing windows and doors |



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